

Main Idea:

Deliverance is one facet of the ministry of Jesus Christ in the church today. Most of the time, our focus should be on walking in the Spirit and developing our relationship with God. On those occasions when we need to directly confront darkness, we do it in the mighty authority of Jesus' name. Afterwards, we return to walking in the Spirit. We do not dwell in darkness, but walk continually in the light of God's love.

JESUS CONTINUES HIS MINISTRY OF DELIVERANCE IN THE CHURCH TODAY

Deliverance is one sign that the kingdom of God is expanding (Matt 4:23-24; Luke 11:20; 1 John 3:8).

Matthew 4:23-24 (NKJV) And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. ²⁴ Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them.

Luke 11:20 But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Jesus ministers to the whole person (spirit, soul, and body) through the ministry of teaching, preaching, and healing.

The Church in the Book of Acts continued the ministry of Jesus in healing and deliverance (*Acts 5:16; 8:7; 16:18; 19:12, 15; Mark 16:16-17*)

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT DEMONS?

Satan deceived a third of the angels into joining his rebellion against God (Rev. 12:4. cf. Isa. 14:12-14; Ezek. 28:12-19). It is likely that these are demons.

Demons serve Satan to bring about evil in the world and to oppose the work of God (John 8:44; 10:10). They use temptation, doubt, guilt, fear, confusion, sickness, envy, pride, slander, etc to hinder Christian witness and usefulness.

Sometimes, they are named by their function: Spirit of fear (2 Tim 1:7), spirit of infirmity (Luke 13:11), spirit of divination (Acts 16:16), spirit of slavery leading to fear (Rom 8:15), spirit of stupor (Rom 11:8), spirit of the world (1 Cor 2:12), spirit of deception (1Jh 4:6)

Demons are at the root of some sicknesses (Luke 11:14; 13:11). Sometimes Jesus heals people, sometimes He casts out the demons. The two are closely related.

CAN A CHRISTIAN BE DEMON POSSESSED?

Christians belong to God, so they are God's possession. Demons dwell wherever there is darkness and sin (Eph. 4:26-27)

NASB Romans 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace.